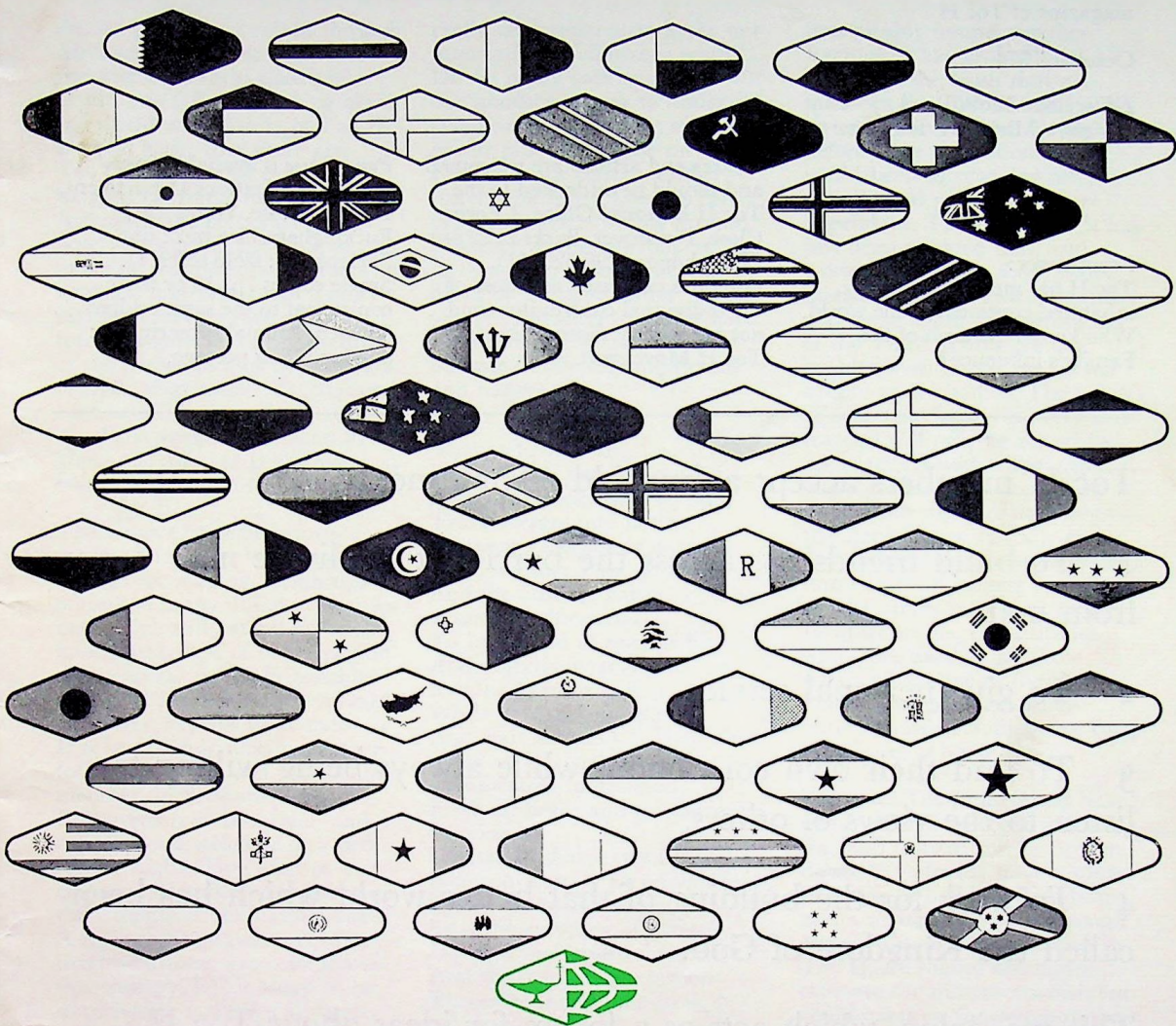


point three

October 1974 7p



A WORLD-WIDE FAMILY?

point three



The monthly
magazine of Toc H

October 1974

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Designer: Michael F Hill MSTD

Front cover:

Toc H has members in every
inhabited continent of the world.
Who knows the limit of the
Family's influence?

Letters and articles are welcomed
and should be addressed to the
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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man
from man.
- 2 To give personal service.
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to
listen to the views of others.
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been
called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H
and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the
third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

view point

The world-wide family

As the year draws round through Michaelmas and on to December and the World Chain of Light, one falls to thinking about the world-wide family of Toc H. Do you know that there are Toc H members in every inhabited continent of the world? A remarkable fact. Just think how well placed Toc H is to make its contribution to international understanding. Toc H members have a rare opportunity to gain an understanding of the problems and peculiarities of their neighbours. 'To conquer hate would be to end the strife of all the ages, but for men to know one another is not difficult, and it is half the battle.'*

There can't be many movements which offer such opportunities for making friendships among so many different peoples and which will extend an open hand, regardless of race, religion and political creed. Friendship in Toc H is all the more valuable because it expects to be used. It is wonderful when a member feels that he can call on a fellow-member, in Brisbane, London, Birmingham or Montreal, and can expect a welcome or a bed for the night. That kind of claim on friendship demonstrates the strength of the Family bond. A few years ago that sort of neighbourliness was common in this country, but it seems to be diminishing now. We all seem to be growing more self-sufficient—and more content to live unto ourselves.

I wonder, though, if we are making the most of our opportunities in Toc H, and if we

really are prepared to make our international fellowship work. Do we really care enough about one another to seek to understand and support one another in our prayers? If one member suffers, do the other members suffer with him? There is certainly enough suffering around. A glance at the newspapers tells us that. Yet, despite the immediacy of the news of our 'global village', we seem to find it hard to feel for one another. We become so horribly indifferent and remote.

'Remotely viewed
Reality itself becomes unreal
And on the television screen
Truth merges into fiction.
Vietnam's anguish is no more
Than another Play of the Week
And the obscene hatreds of Ulster
A new horrific serial
To be viewed at regular hours
And objectively reviewed
By Our Man in Belfast
While we refill our glasses
And wait for the Val Doonican Show
Comfortably immunised
From all fierce and transforming emotion
So that all that seems left to do
Is to complain, if we remember it,
To the Great Producer.
So is the currency of caring
Debased by non-involvement
And the gold of compassion
Turned to indifferent dross.'†

However slow we may be in summoning up some concern, or however powerless we may feel, we simply cannot afford to become indifferent to each other's fate. Our fortunes are so

inextricably bound together. Each of us has probably experienced the truth that no man can live unto himself; no more can nations. Never before have the nations of the world been so economically, socially and politically interdependent. The energy crisis has just demonstrated that, and world shortages in food, water, metals and other raw materials will do so again. The problems of the Third World are our problems—and must not be left simply to the boffins. The crises of over-population, poverty and scarcity will only be solved by approaching with compassion and a concern for people (not population statistics and 'negative dependency ratios'), and this entails a readiness to understand and a readiness to give up so that others may have more. In other words, the attitudes which are needed are those which adherence to the Four Points can engender. International understanding can start right here, at home.

For years Toc H members have demonstrated how barriers of fear and distrust can be broken down. We already have a sound tradition of building friendships and a strong fellowship through prayer. Given the conviction in Toc H, we should not underestimate the influence which we could exert on the communities and countries in which we live.

*Barclay Baron: 'Half The Battle'.

†Alec Churcher: Extract from 'Acceptance World'.

TOC H OVERSEAS:

— Exciting news from
Toc H in Australia,
New Zealand and
South Africa

Toc H Brisbane is the oldest branch in Australia, founded in 1935. The branch has never been large but its members are dedicated. Over the past 15 years they have founded and built OPAL, the One People of Australia League: one of the most hopeful prospects for community relations in Australia today. Roy Nieper, founder member and assistant treasurer of OPAL, takes up the story.

OPAL is a league of people of mixed races and creeds dedicated to 'welding the coloured and white citizens of Australia into one people'. It is concerned to demonstrate especially that Aborigines are capable of educating and helping themselves, and it supports them in their ventures of self-help. Founded by Toc H members, OPAL is very similar to Toc H. It is a movement, not a club, and seeks to bring about understanding and changes in attitude as much as to recruit members. OPAL is now well established, with 18 active branches in Queensland, some of them over 1,000 miles from the capital, Brisbane.



Senator Neville Bonner, President of OPAL, congratulates Mrs Caroline Archer on her appointment as OPAL Executive Officer
Photo: OPAL Magazine

Its president is Senator Neville Bonner, the first Aboriginal member of an Australian Government and a member of Toc H. He is proud to wear his badge and proud of the achievements in understanding and goodwill brought about through OPAL. These things have been accomplished through a steady perseverance and concern for over 15 years. The Toc H band is small in number, yet it has been able to exert considerable influence upon the community. This it has done unselfishly. Toc H has kept in the background and has always encouraged Aborigines to help and further themselves.

Toc H members first became involved with Aborigines 15 years ago through the work of Mrs Joyce Wilding and her husband Frank, who were providing food and shelter for down-and-outs in their own house in South Brisbane. (Mr and Mrs Wilding later became Toc H members and Mrs Wilding was awarded the MBE for her charitable work.) Finding that most of those in need were of the Aboriginal race, members of Toc H felt that some effort should be made to attract the attention of the public to the problems of the indigenous people. Many ideas were considered and eventually we in Brisbane decided to run an Aboriginal Concert at the Brisbane City Hall. We did not realise the problems we were to face and, looking back, we see the truth of the saying, 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread'. However, having decided, we persevered.

Help was solicited from many sources. The then Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel-Smith, agreed to patronise the concert, and the Superintendent of the Queensland Police, a member of Brisbane branch, provided the Queensland Police Pipe Band to attract the public to the City Hall before the concert. A poster competition for Aboriginal artists was arranged, as the main

object of the concert was to show people that the Aborigines were capable of helping themselves. The whole cast was Aboriginal. Toc H members kept in the background but guaranteed the finance and took ultimate responsibility.

We had many problems with the casting; artists failed to turn up (Aborigines are of rather shy disposition) and many a Toc H heart missed a beat. However, the concert was, in the words of Sir Henry Abel-Smith, 'truly remarkable', although financially it was no huge success. We were able to present Mrs Wilding with £50—but Toc H members felt that they had achieved their purpose.

Following the production, a group of folk from various religions and charities approached the Queensland State Government for funds so that Mrs Wilding could carry on her charitable work. The Minister for Health, Dr Noble, told them, 'If you can form an organisation acceptable to my Government, a grant will be made and a building provided.' After much activity, during which Toc H was well to the fore, the 'One People of Australia League' was formed, with an Aboriginal president, Mr James Hamilton, and six other executive members, two of them, including the treasurer, Toc H members. The Queensland Government kept its promise and in 1962 Sir Henry Abel-Smith officially opened the OPAL hostel at 19 Russell Street, South Brisbane. At the opening he stated that he was very pleased to know that Toc H was involved.

Meanwhile, another group of people with similar ideals was operating in Ipswich, a town 20 miles from Brisbane. Their chairman was Mr Neville Bonner, their secretary Mrs Heather Ryan. This group joined forces with OPAL and in 1966 Neville Bonner became president of OPAL, nominated by Toc H

members. In 1970 Neville Bonner became the first Aboriginal member of the Australian Government, and in the recent Federal elections he was re-elected to the Senate with one of the highest numbers of personal votes of any candidate. OPAL has recently elected its first Aboriginal executive officer, Mrs Caroline Archer, a rather wonderful person of great personality.

Now OPAL runs holiday camps for Aboriginal children, staffed by people of various races and creeds. It has opened a home in Brisbane, the OPAL Joyce Wilding Home, for over 70 children. This is managed by a very fine Aboriginal couple, Norm and Murial Underwood, with four Aboriginal helpers, and is supervised by an elected committee. Toc H members sit on the committee and are often seen around the home. The kids call them 'Uncle' and 'Aunt' and enjoy the barbecues they sometimes hold. The local Lions Club has given a minibus to the home for school transport.

Then there is a large OPAL centre in Brisbane which is in constant use. A youth group, Allchuringa, holds dances there; it also accommodates an Aboriginal art gallery, a women's lunch club, discussion panels, welfare facilities and several adult education and children's classes. Many Aborigines, particularly in Queensland and the northern part of Australia, still live in tribal communities and have had little or no chance of education. Now OPAL has managed to obtain scholarships in leading Brisbane schools for Aboriginal children and provided coaching if necessary. OPAL works closely with the State authorities and enjoys the services of a liaison officer from the Queensland Health Education Council, working on a health education project for Aborigines. Publicity material on health care is being distributed among the Aboriginal communities in Queensland.

Finance for OPAL's work has come mainly from public donations. The annual badge appeal on National Aborigine Day has been well supported, and recently several bequests have been received. Both State and Commonwealth Governments have been generous in supporting the hostel and children's home.

Fifteen years of progress give Toc H Brisbane members a feeling of quiet satisfaction. Membership of the branch has never been large, but steadfastness of purpose has always been one of the main attributes. The members feel that their work with OPAL has been infinitely rewarding and worth while.

Toc H New Zealand

Ken Gandy

Hon Secretary, Toc H New Zealand

In June this year I left the shores of New Zealand and travelled via Vancouver and Toronto to the United Kingdom. After visits to Vancouver, Toronto and Exeter branches and a brief visit to Headquarters, it does appear that the problems, projects, hopes and prayers of Toc H are very much the same everywhere. The pudding is the same, only the sauce varies.

The accent at the time of departure in New Zealand was on new projects. In the South Island Ken Ward, our recently appointed staff man, has waded in and is already experiencing the ups and downs of outrageous fortune in working with young people and carrying out new projects. He has a keen bunch of high school volunteers and has started three new groups.

They are hoping to run play centres and to open a school for intellectually handicapped children two days a week in the school summer holidays in December-January. He is also working with the long-established Toc H Amateur Athletic Club (now renamed the Toc H Track and Field Club) and planning future programmes.

In the North Island the Flashing Light scheme, known in New Zealand as the Toc H Lightline, has got away to a good start and has captured the public's interest. Senior pupils in colleges are making the equipment required, and in one city a college is accepting the complete responsibility from start to finish for the area around their college. Surely this is what Toc H is seeking: community interest and action in the welfare of the aged and infirm.

All this is very satisfying and encouraging, but this enthusiasm must not permit Toc H to overlook the work of members throughout the world which continues without the trumpets of publicity. These are the regular jobs, week in, week out, year after year, which bring happiness and comfort to the aged, the incapacitated—physically and mentally—and also to the young in all kinds of homes. These are the foundations on which new projects are built, make no mistake about that. The members who carried out these services over the years are equally involved, if not actively engaged in the new, 'with it' projects. Their service has made the new events possible in the name of Toc H. 'Theirs also is the glory.' This is applicable wherever Toc H exists and I am finding this in my journeyings. Small as New Zealand may be, we are well on target. We have a long way to go, as every Toc H branch has, but we will be there with you all the way.

Haere Ra.

The Movement in South Africa

Ben Motswenayne
Staff member in Johannesburg

We on this part of the continent of Africa seem to be ushered into a new era by the 'wind of change' once predicted by the former British Premier Mr Harold Macmillan in the early 'sixties. For us it looks 'written on the wall' that we are destined for change. One only needs to stand on the roof of the highest skyscraper in this big city of Johannesburg to feel this breeze of change. From the east blows a storm of change from Mozambique; west, the people of South West Africa clamouring for change towards self-rule and self-determination; north, a human barricade, armed to the teeth, guarding our border against insurgents from the northern countries; south, the qualms of extreme dissension from the Coloured Representative Council in Cape Town.

Getting off the highest tower, before putting one's foot on the ground, one meets with hisses from South Africans of all races and opinion, echoing 'dialogue' to bring about 'change'. What is the role of Toc H in the present situation? Is the time not opportune to put across to the people of South Africa, more emphatically than ever, the Four Points of the Compass: to think fairly, to love widely, to build bravely and to witness humbly? We need Toc H desperately: to abandon all rank, to build bridges among men of goodwill for the Kingdom of God, to establish Christian brotherhood, fellowship, trust and understanding during this period of 'change'.

The African in Toc H

Toc H in this country has taken a gallant step by opening membership to all, regardless of colour or creed. The Movement is particularly acceptable to the African simply because of its Christian outlook and the fact that people are accepted as people and not separate entities. In South Africa Toc H has a definite role in teaching people to 'live together and check all bitterness', as we often pray, so as to foster better understanding among God's people in preparation for 'change'. Toc H has in fact accepted this commitment and a start among the Africans has been made. All forms of negative attitudes and prejudices are being broken down. People are beginning to know each other intimately.

During my solo travels on rough as well as smooth and comfortable roads in most rural and sophisticated cities, meeting people of all shades, I have seen that the African as a whole is beginning to realise his commitment towards his fellow man by endeavouring to alleviate distress through Toc H. Hence the spontaneous response from Mount Frere Group to collect clothing for the flood-stricken

people in Graddock and arrange Christmas cheer for the aged in rural areas. Orlando Central branch runs feeding schemes for the aged; Boitumelo Group organises a yearly Christmas carol service and runs a soup kitchen for old people during the pension pay-out days; Meadowlands Student Group collects textbooks from the public to equip school libraries; and there are many meaningful efforts by other Toc H branches and Groups.

Apart from these jobs, the branches and groups enjoy fellowship with one another as well as among the entire Toc H fraternity.

'Operation Breakthrough'

The Development Officer and I have been searching frantically for office accommodation in Soweto from where I could operate, so as to be nearer people who wish to see me. In fact this search started way back when Alf Coates and I ran from office to office of the local authorities trying to secure this, but to no avail.

Not very long ago I read in the local daily newspaper that a small recreation centre in Meadowlands Township (one of the suburbs of Soweto) had been closed down due to poor administration. Without delay the authorities concerned were approached and requested to allow Toc H the free use of the building to run recreational activities for young people. This request was granted and the local authority renovated the premises without cost to Toc H. This is indeed a breakthrough for the Movement in Soweto.

Toc H is now using the premises as headquarters for African work as well as running programmes such as boxing, judo, weight-lifting, ballroom dancing and table tennis for young people. From this point of outreach and extension, we are able to meet

prospective Toc H-ers at the club. The centre is known as the Meadowlands Toc H Recreation Club. We hope to make this venture a pilot scheme to the major project of the Soweto Centre coming on next year.

Soweto Skill Training and Social Centre

Jubilee Year Project

Soweto is one of the largest African settlements in South Africa with a population of about one million. This densely populated settlement in Johannesburg has all sorts of social and economic problems. There are cases of extreme poverty and unemployment due to lack of a sense of vocation. Vice is rife as a result of there being few proper social and recreational facilities in Soweto. With these problems in mind, it has been decided to make the Soweto Centre the major project for the 1975 South African Jubilee of Toc H. £250,000 is anticipated to be needed and fund raising for this is in preparation.

The Soweto Centre Committee envisages that the project will comprise four departments, which are:

Skill Training Wing: ie, workshops for woodwork, auto repairs, electricity, leather work, homecrafts, etc.

Social Centre: for cultural and recreational activities such as drama, indoor games, dancing, basketball, judo, boxing.

Residence: for approximately 100 young men of all professions and those who may be pursuing their educational careers.

Conference Centre: this will accommodate Christian organisations during conferences and also serve as an ecumenical centre. Attached to this wing will be a library and administrative offices.

It is with God's help that we may achieve our ambition for Toc H in South Africa.

The estimated cost of the Soweto Jubilee Project is £250,000, not £25,000 as reported on page 14 of the Annual Report 1973-74. Apologies.

TORCH

Greta Lynn
International Secretary

In June a party of 38 young Americans from Cleveland, Ohio, accompanied by 12 adults, arrived to spend a month in England. Their base was a youth centre at an Anglican church in Crawley, Sussex. Here, under the guidance of the local vicar, the Rev Edgar Wallace, they helped out at mental hospitals in the Crawley area.

The group was from an American church organisation called 'TORCH'—'Teen OutReach Through Christian Help'—which is very similar to Toc H in many ways, except that all its members are in their teens.

During their time in England they split up into smaller groups of twos and threes and spent a week or two on Toc H projects in different parts of the country. Some of them were involved in a camping holiday for mentally handicapped children in Street, Somerset; some at a residential school for ESN children at Peterborough; others found themselves helping with a children's holiday at Rhyl in North Wales; and still another group sampled the delights of the Scottish countryside while helping with the play scheme at Dumbarton.

What was quite a new experience for 'TORCH' this year was that for the first time they were not all working together but were split up and so were able to enjoy the Toc H experience of living, working and playing together with others from completely different backgrounds. At the same time they enriched the mixture of our own projects groups.

talking point

Mike Giddings reflects on the relevance of two points of the compass to the international Toc H Family. Mike, recently returned from India, first shared these thoughts at the International Week-end.

'To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.'

The barriers that divide man from man are becoming potentially more explosive, and the need to build friendships across them becomes more urgent. In the past the hierarchical system in Western society ensured that each group had its own accepted place and position within that society. Groups had little social contact with each other and remained ignorant of the real values and norms of other groups. This barrier of ignorance, particularly of the middle classes towards the 'lower' and minority groups, did not endanger the stability of society, for power rested with the middle classes and their values and norms were inculcated as acceptable through education. Man was thought superior to woman, a white skin superior to black. School-children used to sing such ditties as:

*'God made the little black boys,
He made them in the night,
He made them in a hurry
And forgot to paint them white.'*

The cultures and ways of life of groups other than middle class or Western were thought of as inferior and less desirable.

Now the hierarchical pattern of authority and power within our world is breaking down. Each group of people is now faced with the problem that this breakdown brings. Who decides on the rules and values by which the group is to exist? In a family the children no longer automatically accept parental authority. In a factory there is conflict between the relative powers of management and workers. Many countries, including Britain, are now faced with strong left- and right-wing political groups each demanding power. Within the world political structure, the power and authority of the white colonial countries is weakening and no longer thought of as absolute. The different groups and cultures are now coming into direct contact and competition with each other.

Where does Toc H fit into all this? It isn't a political party; it can't influence world opinion. The two points of the compass quoted above are relevant to each of us, for if lines of communication are not built between different groups of people, first frustration and then aggression and conflict results. We have only to read the newspaper headlines to see examples of this breakdown in communications. One group feels threatened by another, or feels it does not have equal opportunity: the Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland; the Turks and Greeks in Cyprus; the Palestinians.

How can we, as members of Toc H within our own communities and countries, help to break down these barriers and build up a feeling of sharing and equality between people? Let us start with our own local Toc H branch or group. Do we really know each member well

and think of each as an individual rather than as someone who is just a 'Toc H member'? Are our activities so planned to enable each member, young and old, black and white, to use his or her own particular talent? Do our activities involve other people in the local community in such a way that they feel they are helping us rather than vice versa? So often Toc H activities are ends in themselves rather than a means to an end. Toc H, I believe, is not just another welfare organisation. As a recent Toc H sticker proclaimed, 'Toc H is for people'. I fear that often we concentrate too much on the Toc H structure and not enough on the human element of people. It is easy for me to write, 'get to know each member really well', but in reality it is a demanding task. If we want to get to know someone well, we have to be willing for him to get to know us, including our faults! If we feel relatively secure within ourselves, it is easier for us to do this. An activity can be a means to this end—it is amazing what can happen when someone is at one end of a ladder and someone else at the other!

Modern-day advertising and general pressures of life encourage a feeling of insecurity and insincerity. In a colour supplement recently I saw an advertisement stating that 'True love is not taking the last Cadbury nut.' The materialistic world leaves nothing untouched, and it is no wonder that people no longer trust words and are suspicious of strangers. A Punjabi saying, told me by a friend of mine, goes:

*'Far upon a mountain I saw a beast.
When I came close I saw it was a man.'*

*When I came closer still,
I saw it was my brother.'*

Beasts fight each other, brothers share. May each of us, as Toc H members throughout the world, encourage everyone to come closer.

LETTERS

O K Ibe

It is more than a year since I last wrote about my Nigerian pen-friend who lost his wife during the civil war and was left penniless with two young boys, now aged 13 and 11. Their 'adoption' by Toc H (see *Point Three*, May 1973, page 100) has given these folk a sense of security which was greatly needed. On hearing of the arrangement my friend wrote, 'For the first time since the end of our civil war I slept sound. I have written to Mr Francis and I express my joy and I thank him and the rest of Toc H.'



I too feel deeply grateful to all those members who have helped me in rehabilitating this little family. The father's general health is quite good now, but I am afraid there is no news of any improvement in his sight. 'About my health,' he says, 'I am physically well. About my eyes, I have handed everything into the hand of God. I am proud of my sons. God continues to work wonders on us all.'

From the happy snapshot I enclose it seems the boys have left past memories behind and

are looking forward to a brighter future.

Mayne Elson *Tring, Herts*

The Old House

On my long but leisurely stroll through the Ypres Salient recently I thought a lot about the future of the Old House. From the Christian point of view we don't really own it. We hold it in trust, to be used to the glory of God. It has great sentimental value to a small number of us. Its historic interest over the future will grow or lessen according to the impact Toc H makes on community life in Europe, but surely it is no more sacred than Dor Knap, Alison House or any Toc H Mark.

Let's face it: we have not succeeded in putting the Old House to full use over the past ten years, sincerely as we may have tried. 'Tis true that 'old soldiers never die', but the veterans' pilgrimages must fade away very soon now, and the increasing cost of 'popping over to Pop' for a few days will certainly cut down the number of parties visiting the Old House from this country each year.

As your predecessor in the editorial chair reminded us some years back, it is high time the Central Executive faced up to the problem. Can Toc H itself, perhaps with the co-operation of others (eg, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or the local authorities in Poperinge), make full, creative use of this fine old building over the years ahead? If not, then I believe we should give it back to the civic authorities in Poperinge on the sole condition that it be used in the service of God and those in need.

Brian Dickson
Maidenhead, Berks

Although it is true that fewer parties of the 'older style' are going to Poperinge (ie, large parties of about 30 travelling by train and coach), they are to some extent being replaced by smaller parties travelling by

minibus, or private families taking their car over. The idea of a 'Pilgrimage to Poperinge' with the emphasis on visiting war graves is gradually being replaced by folk discovering for themselves that the Old House makes an excellent base for a Continental holiday. To quote figures, the number of 'bed nights' over the past few years has risen as follows: 1967-577; 1972-755; 1973-930.

The Old House is also used as an occasional meeting place by a Toc H group of young people in Poperinge. Twenty young people from Poperinge took part in Toc H projects in England this summer; they have a particularly strong link with Toc H at Prideaux House, Hackney.

International Secretary

Dor Knap slides

The Dor Knap Committee would like to compile a new tape/slide programme of Dor Knap. Any visitors who have any 35 mm colour slides that would be suitable for inclusion in the programme are asked please to send them to me at 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Three presentation copies of the new booklet, *The Poets of Dor Knap*, will be awarded to the senders of the best three slides.

Bob Knight

The prisoner

It is fashionable to plead for the prisoner, to blame society for putting him away.

Society is not responsible. The criminal condemns himself. He embarks on a criminal career knowing the price he may have to pay. Society is not blamed when parachutists, mountaineers, racing drivers and others come to grief. They accepted known hazards. So it is with the criminal.

It is simply up to him.

L C Duncan *Southampton*

personality point

The Mid-Eastern Regional Executive Committee



The executive is a harmonious assortment of long-serving members and new recruits. The members cover a wide age range and even wider experience of Toc H. The result is a stimulating group of people who are noticeably enthusiastic and who obviously enjoy working together. The group comprises teachers, housewives and mothers, a sales manager, bulb farmer, shop owner, social worker and JP.

Alan Brooke, Regional Chairman, outlines the recent thinking of the executive.

'The geographical centre of the Region is Peterborough, and our experience has shown that the strength of the Region is derived from the plan to group the staff in the centre and to work from a central team.

'Two years ago Ray Fabes came to Peterborough; a year later Sue Cumming joined him as his assistant, with responsibility for projects. It soon became apparent that this arrangement was invaluable to themselves and to the membership which they were serving, because they could draw on each other's support.¹ Six months ago John

Biggerstaff joined the team and it was agreed that he also should work from the centre. Betty Cutt, the Regional office secretary, also works from Peterborough. The one exception is Jimmy Cliffe, who works part-time, from Lincolnshire. This plan does not preclude the staff from working over the entire Region. They will fan out, to encourage and pursue all the opportunities for development, all signs of new growth and contacts that originate from the membership throughout the Region.

'It is difficult, at this point in time, when the Region is so young, to be specific about policy, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that our first priority must be the complex question of communication so that every member in the Region understands what we are all trying to do. Each Central Councillor must play an important part in our communication system, as they, of course, form the Regional Council and are the only direct link between the Executive and the District. This communication must be a two-way thing, not only from the Regional Council and Executive outwards, but also from the membership inwards. We all have to work as a team and learn together. All of us in the Region and in the Movement are starting on a new stage of an ever-continuing journey and the whole process of learning is necessary for every one of us, at whatever level of involvement we are, within the Region and the Movement.

'We hope that all members will feel that they are very much part of a wider family. The Executive is conscious that this Region must not become a pocket or part of Toc H detached

or isolated from the whole Movement. We will always consider ourselves as a small part of the world-wide Movement of the Toc H Family, which must be controlled from the centre, albeit operated on a Regional basis.

'The Executive members have split into three groups to deal with specific tasks. Arthur Frymann, Ali Sheppard and John Biggerstaff form a Development group which will be concerned with future planning, with training and communications, and with providing a link between the District Development Teams and CEC Planning Committee. Ken Gilks, "Lockie" Lockwood and Jimmy Cliffe, in the Methods group, will look after administrative matters, with particular responsibility for finance. The third group, Activities, replaces the former Regional Projects Support Group and consists of Bryn Chappell, Olive Tennant and Sue Cumming, and also two co-opted members from the Support Group, Alan Mason and Tina Sheppard.

'We decided that all the staff would be members of the full Executive and that they would have the right to attend all the sub-committees and equally the right to stay away, so that there would be no direction that they would do this or wouldn't do that. This would help to strengthen our desire to work together as a "team" of staff and lay members on an equal footing. We also decided that the Chairman would be an *ex-officio* member of each sub-committee.

Alan Brooke Involved in everything that moves in the Region, especially in East Anglia. Lives in Thetford, married (to Doreen) with two daughters and works as a Sales Office Manager

for Sheppard Equipment Ltd. Elected to the Central Council and Central Executive Committee in 1970; Chairman of CEC Methods Committee.

'Lockie' Lockwood Says she's 70, intends to live to 100—and will doubtless keep everyone on their toes for another 30 years! Speaks warmly of her 40 years in Toc H; a staunch advocate of the traditional branch and branch meeting. A retired head-mistress and Hon. Staff member in the East Midlands Area. Also represents Toc H on the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations in Leicester.

Ken Gilks Runs a jewellery business in Oundle with his wife; treasurer of the thriving Peterborough men's branch. Long experience of Toc H branch, Mark and Services Club life (he helped to start the Nottingham club). Says he thought he was keeping successfully in the background, when he was caught up in Regional administration. Has the perceptive knack of asking the right questions!

Bryn Chappell Aged 31 and the youngest elected member of the executive. Says he has thrown himself in at the deep end. Keen on projects; organises the Leicester and Pinchbeck camps and also the Spalding Tulip Festival. Director of a family farming company specialising in bulbs and flowers. Family history of Toc H membership. Married with two young children.

Olive Tennant Just the sort of person one needs on a committee as a reminder that Toc H exists to care for ordinary people. 'I'm just an ordinary Toc H member, and if I can do it, so can you!' Obviously enjoys everything she does in Toc H. 'How you enjoy a job counts; but I get far more out of it than I put in.' Born and bred on a farm in Norfolk; now involved in Norwich Action Group and Norfolk children's camps. CEC member.

Arthur Frymann Textile manufacturer of Swiss descent. Long-standing number one citizen in Nottingham with an incredible range of interests: Chamber of Commerce, textile associations, rowing, Borstal and prison visiting, Rotary, Telephone Samaritans—and a vegetarian. Attracted to Toc H in 1932 because 'it was actually doing something about the appalling consequences of post-war unemployment, class bitterness and real poverty'. His wife, Yvette, is a Women's Association CEC member. Due to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Ali Sheppard Dutch and 'Girl Friday' to her husband who works from home as an accountant. The whole family is involved in Toc H: daughter, Tina, organises the circulation of the *Mid-Eastern Newsletter* with her mother. Chairman of the Northants District Project Committee. Bags of enthusiasm!

Betty Cutt Regional Office secretary and married to John, CEC member. Brought up on the estate in Leicester from where Toc H now takes children for a holiday at Pinchbeck camp. Betty never had a holiday until she was 11. Became involved in Toc H through typing her boss's District minutes and decided that 'it was just the thing for John'.

Jimmy Cliffe Needs no introduction. Joined in 1929 and made a record of 24 years on the West Yorkshire Area Executive! Retired from teaching in 1971 and joined the staff in Lincolnshire.

Sue Cumming and John Biggerstaff Featured in July 1974 *Point Three* but here for the record.

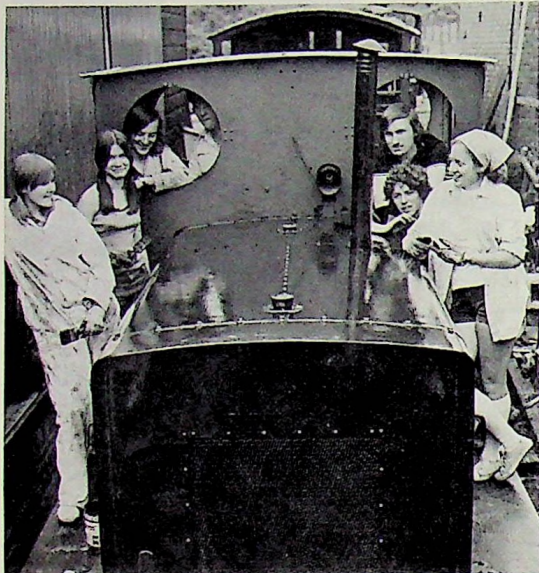
Photos (left to right): Alan, Lockie, Ken, Bryn, Arthur, Olive, Ali, Betty, Jimmy, Sue, John



Summer 74

Right: Fun at Orton Hall Special
School Photo: Sue Cumming

Below: Railway preservation,
Gloucestershire
Photo: Syndication International





Left: A Winant volunteer on the
Hackney Playscheme
Photo: Syndication International

Above: Jimmy Tarbuck joins in the
Scarborough Playscheme
Photo: Dennis Dobson



Opposite: Hackney Summer Play-
scheme
Photo: Syndication International

Above: Beach cleaning at Cromer
Photo: Eastern Daily Press

news point

News, cartoons, crosswords and photos (clear black and white, please) are always welcome. Please send to: Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Combined Effort

Toc H in Keighley has successfully run a second week's holiday at Colsterdale for needy families. Local branch members and Regional staff combined with representatives of the social services department, the local church and a NSPCC inspector to organise the project.

The social services and NSPCC representatives selected those families who were most in need of a holiday and the NSPCC officer, Margeret Hooff, ran one week's holiday. The two branches worked hard to raise the necessary £300, but the effort was considered well worth while. The families enjoyed themselves and Margeret Hooff and the social services are very grateful to Toc H. Three of the volunteers live in Keighley and at least one plans to develop the friendships formed with the parents and children.

Children's Camp Success

The annual Goodwood Camp for under-privileged children has again been a splendid example of close co-operation between branches and outside organisations. Bognor Regis, Felpham and Chichester men's branches, Bognor Regis ladies, and other helpers from the Southdown District have been supported by the Army, RAF and Rover Scouts.

The Army provided equipment and tents, which the Rover Scouts erected, and the RAF laid on transport and outings for the children. Many kindly people lent a hand by cooking an evening meal each day, thus leaving the camp leaders and campers free to plan their daily outings.

It was a most successful venture and typical of Toc H, roping in everyone to lend a hand.

Birthday Scheme

Sheilah Rowan Hamilton, who has acted as Hon Secretary to the Birthday Scheme for the past seven years, is succeeded by Peth Whitfield (formerly Davidson) from 1 October. Members of the scheme, which was started by the League of Women Helpers in 1927, are sent a birthday card every year. They then make a donation to the Birthday Fund, which is used for the upkeep of Alison House. Last year (March 1973-4) the scheme raised £427. For further information contact Peth Whitfield at Rockwood, Rockland Road, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7HR.

Our warmest thanks to Sheilah for seven years of faithful work.

Sheilah writes: 'Running the scheme since 1967 has been a most rewarding experience, and I would like to thank all my fellow members most sincerely for the wonderful way in which they have backed me up. In spite of rising costs, each year has seen an increase in the amount given to Alison House.'

More good-byes

Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to two more of our staff. Stella Freeston, secretary to Sandy Giles, and Joyce Reynolds, secretary to Bob Knight. Joyce, who has been with Toc H for the past eight years, will be joining the Lady Hoare Thalidomide Trust. Stella, on the Toc H staff for the past three years, will be going to the Bible Reading Fellowship. They take with them our warmest good wishes for their future.

Plenty to do

Four members of Nottingham City branch recently spent a Saturday at Alison House, doing odd jobs in the garden. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and recommend the idea to other branches. There is now a strong fence of 20 angle-iron posts along the drive, a rose garden in front of the chapel and a marked absence of nettles, and a 35-foot drain from the chapel to a soak-away in the lawn. Frank Howlett appreciates all the help he can get, and there is still plenty of unskilled work left for a few willing hands.

Alison House Holiday

Alison House was used as a holiday centre for 16 young handicapped people from the Norwich Vauxhall Centre in September. The scheme originated from the centre's assistant organiser, Mr Trevor Sizer, and has been taken up by the county's social services department. The idea is that handicapped youngsters, aged 16 and over, should get together with able-bodied people for a family holiday. 'The local Toc H group has been very helpful', said Mr Sizer.

Going with the young people were ten able-bodied adults, including medical staff. Five of these were trainee social workers. Outings included trips to museums and stately homes in the area, and activities such as painting, photography and music were also planned.

Mr Sizer said he thought they had achieved a great deal by getting this scheme off the ground and hoped that eventually other groups and centres throughout the country would take up the idea and that exchange holidays with the youngsters might be arranged.

Manchester

Children's Camp

Christine Platt

Hon Secretary, Camp Committee

This is our 25th anniversary year and since we started we have taken 5,000 deprived, needy and under-privileged children away, at the rate of 40 per week, for an entirely free week's holiday. We run the camp over five weeks in the summer, which cover the Manchester school holiday period.

The children are recommended from the Blind Aid Society, welfare departments, schools, clinics, the Probation Service and GPs. The children's ages range from 8 to 12 years, and the only stipulation we make is that they would not get a holiday if we did not take them away.

We try to give the children a very enjoyable time at the camp, and judging by the letters of thanks from some of the children and their parents, we have managed to achieve our main aim.

Apart from going to the beach, park and adventure playground, we take the children to Rhuddlan Castle for the day, where they have a picnic; then there is a sports night and a film night. The fun-fair is reserved for Friday mornings, followed by a last trip to the beach, and then comes the party tea followed by a concert, when the children put on 'turns' themselves. On Saturday morning it is 'present time' when we try to teach the children that there is as much pleasure in giving as in receiving. They each receive a gift to take home and also go to the local shops to buy presents for the family, and as most of the children come with less than 50p spending money each, the 'Magic Bank' which each leader holds comes into its own.

It now takes approximately £1,000 each year to run the camp, the money being raised by jumble sales, sponsored swims and coffee evenings. Our treasurer also appeals to firms in the city.

I am the Food Officer and appeal to firms for donations. Over the past few years both these appeals have gone from bad to worse. Last year I wrote 157 food appeal letters, of which only 44 were answered, and out of this figure only 33 were able to make any food donations. This meant that we had to raise over £200 more to pay for food.

Over the 25 years we have been running the camp, the public of Manchester have helped us a great deal by donating what must amount to hundreds of pounds, either to the annual running costs or to the Building Fund, and I would assure you and them that every penny has helped to take a deprived and needy child on holiday.

It always amazes me when we are out 'shaking the tin' how many people think that nowadays there are no deprived or neglected children around. They seem to be under the misguided impression that these disappeared with Dickens. Little do they know. I wish I had enough fingers on my hands to count the number of children we have taken to the camp who live on the cold chips and dregs from beer bottles left over from the parents' supper the night before.

Holiday on Wheels

Sixth-form college students in St Austell, Cornwall, spent a week of their summer vacation giving a holiday to 15 children from the Paddington area of London. They were part of the Cornish Holidays on Wheels venture which began in 1971 when Toc H approached organisations to sponsor holidays by the sea for under-privileged children.

The children sleep in caravans provided by a local firm, cook their meals on a second-hand cooker loaned by the South Western Electricity Board, and travel about in a coach and minibus provided with free petrol by a local transport company.

Holiday Fund Raising

Audrey Varley

Point Three correspondent

A successful garden party, recently held by Leeds District, means that 20 men from a centre for the mentally disabled can go for a holiday to Colsterdale.

Fortune favoured the event. The sun shone brilliantly. Bonny babies and children in fancy dress competed for prizes, while the ladies played five-a-side football. Roundheads and Cavaliers were meant to stage a battle, but as the Roundheads failed to appear, the Cavaliers organised a tug-of-war with the visitors—and lost the battle!

Cheque for Home

Danybryn Cheshire Home, near Cardiff, recently received a cheque for £350 from the South Wales Caravan Club. This was largely due to the initiative of a member of Toc H Rhiwbina. Several patients at the Home are members of Rhiwbina and Cardiff branches.

Walter Walks Again!

Mr Walter Wortley walked 83 miles round Sevenoaks School's running track in 20 hours recently and raised over £150 for Toc H and Cancer Research. Fifty-four-year-old Walter beat his own previous record of 75 miles, set up on the same track last year. The marathon walk began at four o'clock in the afternoon and continued through the night with members of both charities acting as officials.

Children's home

St Helier branch of Toc H, in Jersey, raised £500 for the Upper Norwood Association for Community Care. The cheque was brought over from Jersey by the branch pilot, Harold Stephens, and will be used towards buying some land in the country where a suitable holiday home for children can be built.

news point

Jubilee Project

Toc H is to introduce a community care and concern project in Huddersfield, the first of its kind in the town. This project will be introduced in April next year in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee and has the backing of the Kirklees local authority. It will be a non-sectarian advisory service, with a team of professionally qualified people as members of a support group to be called on when needed. The service will cover a wide age range and can be confidential, if desired. The members of Huddersfield District of Toc H will co-ordinate all sources of help available and use the centre to encourage the development of self-help groups within the community.

Grand Finale

Hythe Toc H Music Club gave a fine finish to their present season of concerts when a large number of music lovers attended a final concert given by the Ensemble Internationale. This famous French chamber orchestra, led and directed by Jean-Pierre Wallez, presented a programme of 17th- and 18th-century music by Bach, Vivaldi, Quantz and Mozart. The performances made an immense impact on the audience and it proved a splendid finish to the club's first season, achieving its main objective: to provide additional celebrity concerts in the Hythe district.

Spectacles by the Thousand

North Walsham branch of Toc H does a great job in handling unwanted spectacles. It sends as many as 16,000 pairs overseas to places such as South India and Nigeria. It can receive anything up to 400 pairs of spectacles in

any one week from various parts of the country. The branch is working alongside Help the Aged who is letting it know when and where the spectacles are required, and the branch then does its best to send the numbers needed to the country concerned.

Handicamp

One of our members and a frequent projects volunteer, Peter Stevenson, recently attended an IVS Handicamp at Ferriers Barn. The camp was international and one-third of its participants were physically handicapped. The main aim of the camp's activities was for volunteers to help each other in every way. Work was done in the gardens at the Barn and full use was made of the Arts and Sports Centre there. Said Peter, 'I was pleased to go on this project and would like to see more projects of this kind run by Toc H.' Peter is no newcomer to IVS camps and spent two weeks last Christmas on a work camp which involved contact with drug addicts. Readers may be interested to know that Peter himself is a spastic.

Land-Rover for Vietnam

Toc H branches, supported by various churches, opened a shop in Ashby-de-la-Zouch for a fortnight to raise money for a land-rover. The appeal, which raised a cheque for £665, was inspired by the work of a former local policeman, David Heath, now serving as a missionary in South Vietnam. It is hoped the vehicle will provide David with suitable transport to help in his work.

AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL REPORT

An amendment to the Annual Accounts is announced, with apologies from the Finance Department.

Please correct your copies as follows:

Notes on the Accounts

31 March 1974

Note 1 Accumulated Fund

General Funds as at 31 March 1973

Delete: £235,562

Insert: £2,355,562

To the Point

■ Bakewell and Worksop Toc H recently combined to give an outing to 140 old folk from local Darby and Joan clubs. After a visit to Chatsworth House, tea was provided. 'In all my 12 years with Bakewell branch, this outing created a record in efficient catering', said correspondent Edwin Harrison. Well done, ladies!

■ Cromer ladies have raised £150 for the Help the Aged appeal to name a flatlet after Bridget Gyton, late daughter of the branch chairman.

■ Barkingside branch raised £300 to provide seaside holidays for a group of local handicapped youngsters.

■ Don't waste paper-and Oston Manor branch didn't! In its first six months £100 worth has been collected.

■ Members of Llanllwch branch climbed happily over a fellow member's roof and spent a lively evening doing some repairs. Happy with a job well done, he sent a cheque for £10 to LEPR.

■ Southdown Projects Team in conjunction with West Sussex District has just held its eighth annual camp for underprivileged children from the Croydon area. Volunteer helpers included a Scottish university student, three Swiss students and a youth leader from Sussex.

■ The four Rushden, Northants, branches have raised £177.88 at the local carnival fête and are apparently the top money-raising organisation in the town.

■ Streatham Women's branch has given another annual tea party for the builders at the British Home and Hospital, Streatham. Parties have been held for nearly 20 years.

The Painting Week at Alison House

Josie White, Norwich

We turned into the drive and there was Alison House. The roses were in full bloom and birds fed from a tray outside the kitchen window. The front door stood open and we walked in and, hearing voices, stepped into the lounge. It is a long, light room furnished with easy chairs, and bowls of sweet peas were placed on the mantelpiece. We sipped tea and someone 'surprised' Ruth with a birthday cake. The candles were lit and we sang 'Happy Birthday' and with grave concentration Ruth blew out her five candles. Later her birthday cards were arranged on the mantelpiece and there she insisted they remained. The children were quick to recognise that Alison House is a home.

Our hostess showed us to our room and we were glad to freshen up after our journey. On investigating the grounds we found a game of croquet in progress and a miniature golf course. The garden at the back of the house was a riot of colour—sweet-scented stocks, antirrhinums, French marigolds and alyssum—and in the window-boxes scarlet geraniums. Tomatoes grew in the greenhouse and rows of vegetables sheltered against the wall in the kitchen garden. Here was the conference room which would serve as a studio. We had come for the Painting Week.

The next morning after breakfast we met our tutor, Mr Muscutt. Those who had been the previous year soon disappeared with their paints and our small group waited and wondered. Before very long we were all occupied, and as we borrowed brushes and settled in we quickly learnt each other's names. The children were free to paint or play outside and the days passed quickly. There was a washing-up rota and we soon found where the tea and biscuits were kept. The cook went sick but

meals were still served promptly and the children competed for the privilege of sounding the gong.

In the evenings we entertained each other. There was a slide show, a musical evening and one spectacular night we fell about laughing while playing charades. On Sunday we went to church, some to the parish church and others to the Methodist chapel. Alison House has a chapel of its own but as yet the building is not ready for occupation. The very week we were there members from Worksop Toc H brought a gift for the chapel: a wood carving depicting the Last Supper. This lovely piece of craftsmanship was made over 50 years ago by Tom Pepper. He did three; one is in Worksop Priory and one in St Anne's Church, Worksop. We also saw the altar cloth given by Bill and Freda Stoneman. The cloth, of fine woollen material, has been worked by Freda in coloured wool and pearls and shows the Cross with the Tears of Contrition.

On the last evening we staged an exhibition of work completed during the week, and both the carving and the altar cloth were displayed for the benefit of our visitors. Among them we welcomed Mr and Mrs Pass who live next door. Mrs Pass told me that they nearly bought Alison House but when they came back for a second look it was sold, so they purchased the rectory instead. The exhibition contained nearly 100 items consisting of paintings and sketches, collage work and paper sculpture and paper mosaic work done by the children. Many of them depicted local views and Alison House itself. We discussed each other's work and then went in for the Gala Dinner. This was quite grand with the tables set formally and decorated with flowers. There the formality ended except for a loyal toast to our two patrons.

On departure day we sadly collected our things together. The

studio became a conference room again and from underneath the newspapers emerged the table tennis table. Suitcases stood about and goodbyes were exchanged. People who a week ago had never met were parting as old friends.

In the library I looked at Tubby's photograph. It seemed to me that Alison House was a part of Tubby's unit. The house built by a mill-owner as a private residence was now a Toc H home. A place where you could be yourself and find that inner quiet that Tubby felt was so important. We had been on the receiving end of Toc H. The holiday was the best we had ever had. Thank you to the wardens and staff who looked after us. Thank you to our hostess for all the little individual acts of kindness that came our way. Thanks, Toc H.

picture point



Left: Susan Hampshire makes a surprise win on the coconut-shy. She was opening a fete at a home for mentally handicapped children at Broadstairs. Toc H ran the coconut stall and several other stands at the fete Photo: *East Kent Times*



Left centre: Making the point for Toc H is this float in the Tunbridge Wells carnival this summer Photo: *Kent & Sussex Courier*

Bottom left: Actor Derek Newark (Det Insp Tucker in BBC TV series 'Barlow') is seen in the centre with Toc H members Reg Smith (left) and John Smith (right) at a fete held at Franklin House home for the disabled in Croydon Photo: Reg Coates

Below: HRH Princess Alexandra on her visit to the Toc H BAOR Services Club at Wolfenbittel is welcomed by the Warden, Bob Peyton-Bruhl June 1974 Photo: PR HQ 1 Div BAOR



The Poets of

Dor Knap

Ken Priddaux-Bruno

Toc H has a literary tradition dating back to the earliest days of the Movement. Tubby and Barclay Baron are no longer with us but the publication this summer of *The Poets of Dor Knap** shows that the tradition is very much alive. Seven of the 19 contributors to this booklet are Toc H members and most of the others took part in the 'Accent on Poetry' week-end at Dor Knap last April.

The week-end 'ranged from the high-minded to the hilarious', writes John Callf in his Introduction, and this variety is reflected in the book—from the compassion of Sheila Vanderstay's 'For Beryl' and Robin Lloyd's poem about 'lovers locked on a bench' and a tramp 'aching the bench two confiscated' to the humour of Michael Park's two poems in Yorkshire dialect. The only poem on Dor Knap itself is contributed by Keith Rea and it effectively captures the spirit of the house:

*'Jesus wanders about the place, he
seems at home
Savouring the porridge and peas-
pudding happiness,
Inglenook listening and spirit
stirring argument.'*

Judgement of poetry can only be personal and subjective. In addition to the contributions already mentioned, I know I shall return often to three poems by Toc H members: 'Moor-song', a very short and simple lyric by Neil McNeil; 'Oban' by Sue Sutton, which makes its point with economy of words and lightness of touch; and 'Jodrell Bank' by John Jones, which stands out for the richness of its language and imagery.

The booklet is attractively produced and well worth the modest price of 20p.

*Available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.



IT'S LOOKING GOOD FOR THE JUBILEE HOW ARE YOU DOING?

A 'full house' is promised for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London next year. Although only half the branches have replied to the Open Letter issued on 31 May, there is enough evidence that a big attendance can be expected. If further replies indicate the same level of support, it will be necessary to put a top limit on the size of branch parties. Notice of any limitation of numbers will of course be given in the application forms which will be issued in the early part of the year.

Local Jubilee events: Many local events are being arranged in branches, Districts and Regions. A calendar of these is to be printed and details of the dates and type of events will be appreciated by the Festival Secretary as soon as they are known. Alison House is arranging a Garden Party for 13 September and an impressive week-end of events is being planned by South East Hants District.

Parks Floral Displays: A new planting arrangement which includes the Diamond Jubilee emblem is now ready and available on request.

**Jubilee Campaign Desk
1 Forest Close, Wendover
Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT**

PRISON

Paul Rogoff, Toc H member and probation officer seconded to the Prison Service, continues the discussion on the penal system.

Ray Fabes's two bold articles on crime and punishment deserve close scrutiny and reappraisal. He writes explicitly from the perspective of a member of a Christianising movement and an experienced prison visitor. He raises interesting questions as to why our society seems obsessed with punishing offenders when we should be doing more to prevent crime and reorientating offenders. Having worked for seven years in association with what must be the largest court complex in the British Isles, and more recently for two years in a local prison and psychiatric prison, I think I am in a position to express an informed view on this topic.

On the subject of magistrates: I think most lay people are unaware that they can be self-appointed. One writes to a local Clerk of the Peace and says one has been serving the community (say with Toc H, for instance) and would like to serve in the capacity of magistrate. Provided one is cleared by the Lord Chancellor's Department and there is a vacancy, one is appointed and given some form of in-service training. This may amount to a few hours visiting prisons and having talks from various people in connection with the courts. It is extremely difficult to remove magistrates who have taken up the work for deliberate or unconscious motives such as social

status, a strong desire to wield power and a desire to punish. From my observations I support Ray's evidence of punitive treatment by magistrates and conclude that a significant minority of them are seriously distorting their roles when acting as 'Justices of the Peace'. I want to discriminate, however, because magistrates who serve juvenile courts are generally of outstanding calibre. I, among others, think that magistrates should be reappraised about every six years on their performance and reappointed or asked to stand down; as apparently applies in some Scandinavian countries.

On the question of whether we build penitentiaries to make the occupants penitent: the evidence is clearly otherwise, but my experience shows that about 15 per cent are deterred from petty crime or take more care not to be caught again. I am not an advocate of the mass emptying of British prisons. There are men inside who choose a devious life deliberately and who are bent on the destruction of the fabric of society or the violation of other people and property. There are also many prisoners who are mentally weak. We are only just coming round to the view that it is possible to be sick and wicked at the same time.

Society expects something constructive to happen when a man is sentenced. Usually all that has been happening is that the prisoner is contained with a large number of others in a regime which emphasises conformity and rewards it. As Ray has intimated, the biggest single problem that prisons have to deal with arises from alcoholism. Vagrancy usually has an alcoholic component. As soon as we have established drying-out centres (as in Poland, for example), drunkenness will cease to be a crime. Legislation already exists for us to adopt this enlightened approach but we are slow in setting up the appropriate medical centres.

Ray's second article questioned the mentality 'of those administer-

ing our penal policy'. Having listened to many speakers, read much on the subject of crime and glanced through hundreds of files on prisoners, I conclude that within our society there is a strong desire, within ordinary people, to punish others, and this has been evident since our history was recorded. The penal system attracts certain unsuitable staff who have impulses to punish others; perhaps they enter the job to protect themselves from their own criminality and to find an outlet which is not labelled criminal. Technologically, the advanced industrial nations have made extraordinary progress and this includes the use of devices to keep men locked up as well as devices for friends on the outside to try to release them. There has, however, been a lag in this country in the area of human relations and the way in which we treat men who have erred—compared with, say, Denmark, which probably has the most civilised and humane penal system in the world. (Perhaps because so many of their present administrators were themselves incarcerated by the Nazis and know what the experience is like.) There is prospect of change for the better, as contained in the recently published report of the Advisory Council on our penal system (the Younger Report). The report recommends custody and control with caring and this is to be done mostly within society with all its temptations, frustrations and demands contrasted with the social and physical aridness of prison. I welcome the report because it makes sense: many of its ideas have been tried and proved successful in other similar societies, notably in Poland, California and Scandinavia. For example, custodial sentences should be more flexible; more emphasis should be given to retraining and education, and a more realistic form of work provided than hitherto.

If the Toc H membership cares (Ray and I clearly think it does), it is worthwhile at this stage for

branches to invite members of their local Bench, Police Force, prison, Borstal and Probation Service to discuss these proposals. Emphasis for the future must surely be on the prevention of crime, on the control and re-orientation of offenders. The obsessive hangers and floggers within our complicated society are, however, poised to punish reforming proposals and uphold a largely inhumane, harmful, expensive and inefficient penal system, as exists at this moment. As Ray has urged, unless ordinary laymen think through this important issue, find their own convictions and then strive to communicate them to their elected representatives, the recommendations of the Younger Report in particular could be delayed for a decade or more.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during July and August:

- 6—Bangor (j)
- 4—Accrington (j), Bramley (j),
Crewkerne Group.
- 3—Arlington (j).
- 2—Acton & Garden Village (m),
Central, Cheltenham (m),
Clacton on Sea Afternoon (w),
Crediton (w), Leicester Toc H
United Joint, Milford on Sea
(j), Portmadoc (m), Troon
(m).
- 1—Allestree (w), Biggleswade
(w), Cambridge (j), Central
Overseas, Eastbourne (w),
Eastcote (w), Hackney (j),
Leicester (w), Margate (m),
Melton Mowbray (m),
Mildenhall (m), Newton
Abbot (w), Oldham (w),
Peterborough (m), Southport
(j), Tavistock (m), Thurrock
(m), Uckfield (m), Wem (j),
West Worthing (w).

**We extend a warm welcome
to the 59 new members.**

Obituary

Mary Hope

Mary Hope, who died on 24 July, was the daughter of Padre Muirhead Hope, well known at All Hallows for many years. She was Hon Treasurer of Toc H Women's Association from 1957 to 1966.

She had many interests in her life. For 16 years she was Grand Master of the women's Masons and also worked very closely with Lady Reading in the WRVS. Her other, and perhaps her greatest, love was York Minster, where there will be a Memorial Service for her on Wednesday 16 October.

Owing to her many interests, Mary was perhaps not well known, except by name, to many members other than Central Councillors, but we who served with her on the Finance Committee remember her with admiration and affection.

Jan Prior

Jan, *née* Sheppard, who died on 4 August, served from 1958-65 as Headquarters Pilot of the Women's Association, work which took her to many areas of the British Isles. She lived in Crutched Friars House and played a full part as one of its hostesses. Her thoughtful talks, her articles in the Log and her quiet counsel given to members in need made her a much-loved staff member.

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In April: Winnie Tregilgas (St Austell).

In May: G Laurie Bedford (Leominster), Norah E Carter (Sprowston), Amy Graves (Eltham).

In June: Harold G Casperson (Beds, Herts & N Bucks Area), Elsie E Dawson (Leigh-on-Sea), Don Edgerley (Early), Violet Gatfield (Clacton Afternoon), Christina Ivey (Alton), Clarence Jewitt (Wakefield), Stanley V Lippiatt (Hythe), Ernest A Newble (Leigh-on-Sea), David G Reynolds (Rhiwbina), Jimmy Taplin (Saltburn).

In July: Stanley Bigg (Looc), G Herbert Blechley (Central), Dennis Bowdler (Looc), George J Le Brun (Grouville), Violet Cadogan (Iver), Sybil Egerton (Central), Henry Hamlet (Sale), Thomas S Harrison (St Annes on Sea), Mary G M Hope (Central), Herbert Manzoni (Mitcham), Jane Parry (Penarth), Robert H Roberts (Colwyn Bay), Stanley Sheard (Yorkshire Area), Alexander Uvary (Milford-on-Sea), Col Charles H Wallace (Nairn), Gladys Waterman (Leicester).

In August: Charles Belchambers (Exmouth), F Stanley Bridgwater (Hagley), Dr Robert A Fawcus (Chard), John M Griffiths (St Annes on Sea), Jan Prior, Gladys Sherwood (Hartlepool), Harold A Thomas (Hayling Island).

We give thanks for their lives.

Ourselves and Fulfilment

The Rev John Hull

Consider now our place in the 'Kingdom of God'. There is no harm in talking about our potential in the Kingdom of God, because such potential is not measured in terms of expertise or success, as many would have us believe.

It has been said that the problem with success is failure. Rex Chapman, in his book *A Glimpse of God*, says: 'The God who is our God is far more than a gloriously successful God, a big God up in heaven; he is a God who has made success and failure empty terms by showing himself to be a God who is seen uniquely in a triumphant failure. Christus Victor, a magnificent glorious defeat.' It is true that, to any 'lookers-on', the reward for the perfect life of Jesus was a criminal's death. If we look for a success story we need to look a bit further than that.

Yet in our lives some measure of success is essential for our growth and identity. But the expectation that success in itself will bring us ultimate satisfaction or fulfilment is a fallacy. Many of us discover that to our cost.

If we run the risk of becoming complacent, we must realise right away that *our task is to be faithful*. By that I don't mean believing in the existence of God. That might be something, but it's not enough. Somehow we need to hand our lives over to him. He can use us better than we can use ourselves, left to ourselves. This does not lead to the abandonment of personality. Far from it. It means the fruition of it. We become what he would have us be. But we come just as we are. Please don't think that this means walking round with a

funny grin and a hazy look, shaking hands with everybody. 'Personality is the very nature of God's life.' This personality lies in our 'free deliberate acts of mind' (*A Science of God*, Farrer). All we must do is to develop them to the full. This is God's gift as much as any other. If we are after achievement, we might not achieve what *we* think we ought to achieve, but the achievement for his Kingdom on earth will be beyond our wildest dreams; and indeed an achievement that we may not live to know.

Let's take a musical break. Listen to the closing moments of Elgar's Cello Concerto. There is a struggle, despair, but somehow he shakes himself out of it, ending in triumph.

Elgar's Cello Concerto: Jacqueline Du Pré, LSO, Sir John Barbirolli.

The point of that music is not saved up for the last few triumphant bars. Although in one sense the end may lie in the architecture of the whole, in another sense each moment of it is its own self-justification; each note in its context is as valuable as any other. And so in just the same way the purpose of our life, and indeed the purpose of *Toc H*, is not in the far future, nor round the next corner, but here and now, fully as ever it will be on this planet.

What an excitement that is! I suppose the greatest excitement is in sorting out where we go from here. It brings us down to earth a bit when we realise just how jolly useless we can be. I don't find it terribly easy when I've driven 200 miles to get out of the car and be nice to people. Karen (my wife) the other day spent the morning in the company of prisoners' wives and their children, and ours as well. If that wasn't enough, on her way home someone collared her and started to spin a tale

of woe. The trouble was that she started to laugh, leaving this person thinking 'what a way for a parson's wife to behave!' If we happen to go wrong as ministers of God (it's quite possible!), we become targets for people to throw things at. It is at times like these that people talk about 'conscience'—not because they've got a reason, but because they just mean to be awkward. If it is any comfort, a theologian was once heard to say, 'sin is a bogey invented by theologians to make men miserable and drive them mad'. Of course we make a mess at times; we're bound to make mistakes. Sir Mortimer Wheeler, that great man of archaeology, was asked last year at Colchester, by a young lad, if he ever made any mistakes. To this he replied: 'Of course; a person who doesn't make mistakes doesn't make anything.' So, in spite of mistakes, I believe God wants us just as we are. We're not all orators, not all preachers, not all prophets, musicians or poets, but we are ourselves. That's what he wants. The worst danger is in losing ourselves by chasing around, because I believe it can be a snare and a delusion. We must leave something for others to do! May I leave you with these words of Père Charles de Foucauld, one of the great thinkers:

'We are all becoming the prisoners of our activism. We must find time to let our minds dwell on him. The beauty of holiness in the midst of this revolutionary world belongs to those who set the Lord always before their eyes.'

Let us pray. We come just as we are. In silence we ask God to give us faith to submit so that he would help us to become our true selves.

Prelude 'Rhosymedre': R Vaughan Williams.

Small advertisements

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc, gold stamped to your requirements. Details: **NORTHERN NOVELTIES**, Bradford BD1 3HE.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in this area, between £9,000 and £25,000, contact **Bonner & Son**, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NR. Telephone 2301



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietact, **HOTEL JACOBS**, Ballestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Baroque Jewellery made and sold for Toc H funds. Useful items for bazaars and fairs. Discounts on bulk orders. Special sale this autumn—25 per cent discount on normal prices. Write for leaflets to Rev Crispin White, 6 Heron Way, Gosport, Hants PO13 0RU.

ALISON HOUSE Help!

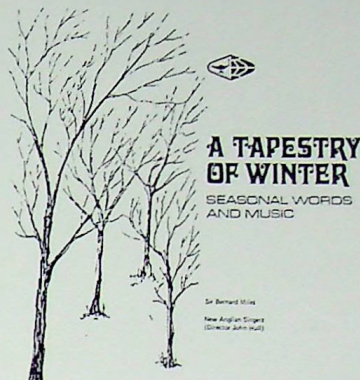
Frank Howlett asks if party leaders visiting the house could find time on their programmes to incorporate working groups to help in the house and garden (similar to Dor Knap).

If leaders are able to assist in this way and could give advance notice to Frank and Wyn, they would be extremely grateful.

Stowe Community Service visits more than 400 old people weekly. Green Shield stamps, Pink stamps, Co-op stamps and all brands of cigarette coupons desperately needed for hot-water units and better heating. All gifts, however small, will be put to lasting use. **Stowe Community Service**, Buckingham MK18 5EH (a registered charity).

Needed urgently, a temporary or (hopefully) permanent lady warden for the World Guide Centre at Olave House, Earls Court, London. Married couple would be considered. Further details from Mrs M Owen-Hughes, The Hollow, Compton Dundon, Somerton, Somerset.

If any member of Toc H has a bed-sitting-room to let please contact Edwin Osment (Cuffley & Goffs Oak branch), 15 Cranbrook Road, Waltham Cross, Herts.



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